

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and remarks are directed to formalities, in order to move the above-referenced patent application to issue. Entry of this paper is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 6, 20, and 24 have been amended. Claim 19 has been cancelled, without prejudice. Thus claims 1, 3-9, 11, 13-17, 20, 21, and 23-32 are pending.

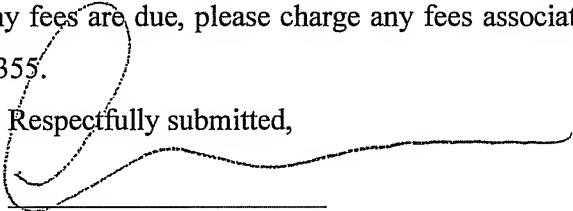
The amendments are being made to the claims as amended by the Examiner in the Notice of Allowability.

The amendments to the claims are editorial in nature and are meant to correct typographic errors only. No new matter has been added. The amendments to the claims are not being made for reasons of patentability. The amended claims are not subject to the complete bar against the use of the Doctrine of Equivalents as outlined in Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinsoku Kogyo Kapushiki Co., Ltd. a/ka/ SMC Corporation and SMt Pneumatics, Inc.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

The issue and publication fees are being paid separately. No fees are believed to be associated with this paper. However, if any fees are due, please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,


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